

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 DLOS-03 L-02 COME-00

DODE-00 NSF-01 RSC-01 OES-03 /027 W

----- 105668

R 090902Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6027

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR TPHY ID

SBUECT: R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON

REFS: A) STATE 282810

B) JAKARTA 15311

C) STATE 27485

D) JAKARTA 12899

E) JAKARTA A-162, SEPT 16, 1974

1. IN RESPONSE REF A., EMBOFFS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH DR. BACHTIAR RIFAI, CHAIRMAN OF INDONESIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES (LIPI). DR. APRILANY SOEGIARTO, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY, WAS PRESENT. RIFAI IMMEDIATELY SAID LIPI WOULD APPROVE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON PROJECT; HE AND SOEGIARTO FOUND IT OF CONSIDERABLE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, AND LIPI (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED MAN) WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO PUT OBSERVER ABOARD AT KO PHUKET.

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2. RIFAI HASTENED TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT LIFPI APPROVALL

WAS ONLY FIRST STEP. APPROVAL ALSO REQUIRED FROM AT LEAST SEVEN OTHER AGENCIES; NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BODY (BAKIN), DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY (J-1 INTELLIGENCE), NATIONAL POLICE, IMMIGRATION, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE OF SEA COMMUNICATIONS). OF THESE, APPROVAL BY DEFENSE AND BAKIN WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. NORMALLY LIPI GETS ALL THESE CLEARANCES, RIFAI SAID, BUT IN THIS CASE BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS HE BELIEVED WE WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE IF EMBASSY CARRIED THE BALL. LIPI WAS READY TO BACK US UP BY CONFIRMING SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF PROJECT, CREDENTIALS OF SCRIPPS AND BENEFIT TO INDONESIA OF THE EXPEDITION AND OF HAVING OBSERVER ON BOARD. RIFAI SUGGESTED WE BEGIN WITH DEFENSE OR BAKIN.

3. ACCORDINGLY, DEFENSE ATTACHE AND EMBOFF CALLED JANUARY 8 ON BRIG. GEN. SUHARTO, DEPUTY J-1 (INTELLIGENCE), DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY. WE OUTLINED PROBLEM AND, IN ADDITION TO REQUESTING DEFENSE CLEARANCE, ASKED HIS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING APPROVAL OF OTHER AGENCIES. HE PROMISED TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO AND GET BACK TO US URGENTLY.

4. RIFAI'S POSITION REFLECTS INDONESIAN POLITICAL REALITIES. HIS AGENCY, WITH TINY BUDGET AND NO POLITICAL CLOUT, COULD NOT HOPE BY ITSELF TO MOVE OTHER AGENCIES FAST ENOUGH OR EVEN CONVINCE THEM OF THE MERITS OF THIS CASE. MILITARY HAS CONTROLLING VOICE IN INDONESIA AND ITS KEY AGENCIES ARE ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO CONSIDERATIONS OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY. IN PUSHING FOR R/V WASHINGTON VISIT, THEREFORE EMBASSY HAS TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO AROUSE SUSPICION VESSEL HAS INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION MISSION - THUS HAMPERING FUTURE APPROVALS FOR SCRIPPS RESEARCH VESSELS. SUCH SUSPICIONS MAY SEEM EXCESSIVE TO WESTERNERS, BUT ARE REAL ENOUGH TO INDONESIANS AND UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF THEIR CULTURE AND HISTORY.

5. IT IS THESE SECURITY CONCERNS WHICH UNDERLIE LIPI'S CUMBERSOME REQUIREMENTS (REF A). THESE REQUIREMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND APPLY TO ALL FOREIGN RESEARCH IN INDONESIA (REF E) WILL BE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE MESSAGE. FOR PRESENT WE WOULD MERELY POINT OUT THAT THEY APPLY TO ALL NATIONS AND ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, JOINT AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO INDONESIA (REF D) HAS BEEN PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM. THIS EXPEDITION IS ON A SCRIPPS VESSEL, R/V ALPHA

HELIX, AND SCRIPPS IS THE PARTICIPATING U.S. INSTITUTION.

6. WHILE WE CANNOT GURANTEE SUCCESS, EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE CLEARANCE FOR R/V WASHINGTON. SOME OF REF B REQUIREMENTS CAN PROBABLY BE WAIVED, BUT IF WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SCRIPPS COULD FURNISH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, NAMES, NATIONALITIES AND PASSPORT NUMBERS OF SCIENTIFIC PARTY.

7. IF PERSONNEL WISH TO GO ASHORE IN SURABAYA, THEY WILL NEED INDONESIAN VISAS. HAVE THESE BEEN OBTAINED OR APPLIED FOR?

8. REF C, PARA 2, MENTIONS AGENTS IN SINGAPORE AND CEBU, BUT NOT IN SURABAYA. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE AGENT IN SURABAYA.

9. WE ARE REPEATING KEY REFTELS TO SURABAYA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** RESEARCH, SHIPS, THOMAS WASHINGTON, SCIENTIFIC VISITS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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